

tion with the other color produces a degradation to which no lover of his country, no lover of excellence in the human character can innocently consent. I am sensible of the partialities with which you have looked towards me as the person who should undertake this salutary and arduous work. But this, my dear sir, is like bidding old Priam to buckle on the armor of Hector, "*trementibus aevo humeris et inutile ferrum cingi.*" No, I have over-lived the generation with which mutual labors and perils beget mutual confidence and influence. This enterprise is for the young, for those who can follow it up and bear it through to its consummation. It shall have all my prayers, and these are the only weapons of an old man. But in the meantime are you right in abandoning this property and your country with it? I think not. My opinion has ever been that until more can be done for them we should endeavor with those whom fortune has thrown on our hands to feed and clothe them well, protect them from all ill usage, require such reasonable labor only as is performed voluntarily by freemen, and be led by no repugnancies to abdicate them and our duties to them. The laws do not permit us to turn them loose if that were for their good, and to commute them for other property is to commit them to whose usage of them we cannot control. I hope then, my dear sir, you will reconcile yourself to your country and its unfortunate condition, that you will not lessen its stock of sound disposition by withdrawing your portion from the mass. That, on the contrary, you will come forward in the public councils, become the missionary of the doctrine truly Christian, insinuate and inculcate it softly but steadily through the medium of writing and conversation, associate others in your labors, and when the phalanx is formed bring in and press the proposition perseveringly until its accomplishment. It is an encouraging observation that no good measure was ever proposed which if duly pursued failed to prevail in the end. We have proof of this in the history of the endeavors in the English parliament to suppress that very trade which brought this evil on us. And you will be supported by the religious precept "Be not weary in well doing." That your success may